

when his patrol car skidded off the Ventura Freeway.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family. David Rodriguez was a model first responder, whose bravery in death merits our admiration and respect.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. GILCHREST. Madam Speaker, please let the record show that had I been present for rollcall vote No. 763, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING THE NEW YORK LATINO FILM FESTIVAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate one of my constituents, Calixto Chinchilla, on the completion of what has quickly become a New York film tradition: the New York International Latino Film Festival.

This past Sunday, Chinchilla and a group of dedicated volunteers and sponsors closed out another fantastic 5 days of film screenings and panels for the eighth straight year. Chinchilla, then a young marketing executive, founded the festival in 1999 to showcase the talent of the growing Hispanic community, at home and abroad.

It's crazy to think that despite's New York's immense Latino talent, there has never been a consistent side-by-side display of Spanish-language and English language films from all of Latin America and the U.S. But there wasn't. So he pulled together an event that looked to shatter stereotypes that society had about Latinos with films that came from all over the Hispanic Diaspora and that challenged notions that both mainstream society and the Latino community had when it came to race, ethnicity and class. He sought to do this in an environment where Hollywood could meet independent cinema, so that fresh faces could be brought to the stage and longtime community voices could be heard.

The journey has not been perfect, yet Chinchilla, current co-Executive Director Elizabeth Gardner and enthusiastic mix of veterans and newbie volunteers always seem to pull it off bigger and better each time around. Although many of the films are shown downtown, Chinchilla has made a habit of bringing the festival to other parts of the city during and after the summer festival. The only local festival to feature a night exclusively dedicated to Dominicans, NYILFF this year will also treat my constituents in Washington Heights with a family day filled with games, activities and movies for children.

I submit into the record two articles from the New York Daily News that provide a little more information about this year's showcase. It's just another example of the great body of artistic talent that has called and will continue to call Northern Manhattan home.

[From the New York Daily News, July 25, 2007]

PICTURES OF LATINO LIFE

(By Roberto Dominguez)

It took a few years for aspiring director Bruno Irizarry to get around to making a movie about the trouble many Latino actors have finding quality, nonstereotypical roles.

But Irizarry didn't hesitate when it came to submitting his feature-length film, "Shut Up and Do It!," to the one festival he knew would appreciate it.

The comedy is among the 80 or so features, shorts and documentaries at the New York International Latino Film Festival, now in its eighth year of showcasing new movies by or about Hispanics.

The festival was founded in 1999 by Calixto Chinchilla, at the time a Warner Bros. marketing employee, who felt the need to counteract the dearth of Latino themes and characters in mainstream movies.

"Shut Up and Do It!" is about a down-on-his-luck Latino actor compelled to make his own movie—and cast himself in it—because of a lack of good parts.

"To have my first film accepted into the festival has been a totally amazing experience," says Irizarry, 40, who directed the film together with Veronica Caicedo and also cast himself in a leading role—as a struggling actor.

"Most of the stuff in the movie has really happened to me as an actor trying to make it in New York," adds Irizarry.

"Like the characters, I was fed up and tired of casting directors seeing me for roles like 'Garbage Man No. 1.' But being in this festival has allowed me to start off my directing career with a bang, because it's so well-established."

That wasn't always the case. The first year's festival screened just a handful of movies at a community center in midtown that Chinchilla rented for a couple of nights.

It has since expanded into the largest event of its kind, with movies from both established and emerging filmmakers from across the U.S., Latin America and Spain. They're presented in several Manhattan locations, along with panel discussions, free outdoor screenings of classic movies (like "West Side Story") and themed evenings like Dominican Night—with the backing of corporate sponsors eager to tap into the buying power of the U.S. Latino market.

As the number of submissions from around the world has grown into the hundreds, so has the festival's reputation and prestige.

Director Alfredo De Villa, whose first feature, the low-budget drama "Washington Heights," was a festival darling five years ago, has seen his career grow as a result.

All three of his films have been screened at the fest over the years, and De Villa has gone on to work with several name actors, including Dominic Chianese of "The Sopranos" and Heather Graham, who star in De Villa's drama "Adrift in Manhattan."

"It's definitely like coming home," says De Villa of the festival. "As long as they'll have me, I'll keep bringing them movies."

In recent years, the festival has also become a springboard for bigger-budget projects—"El Cantante," produced by Jennifer Lopez and starring Marc Anthony as troubled salsa singer Hector Lavoe, is premiering at this year's fest before it hits theaters in August.

But according to Chinchilla, the true measure of the festival has been giving locals like Sonia Gonzalez the chance to display their work.

"They've always been very supportive of Latinos, but now it's become a really visible showcase for first-time filmmakers," says Gonzalez, whose documentary on New York

stickball, "Bragging Rights," premieres today.

"To have a feature [at the festival]," she adds, "makes you feel like a celebrity."

[From the New York Daily News, July 11, 2007]

CITY'S LATINO FILM FEST IS BACK: BETTER, STRONGER, FEISTIER

(By Lewis Beale)

Talent-driven. That's the word on the eighth annual New York International Latino Film Festival, running for six days from July 24 to July 29 at venues around the city.

"This year is all about growth," says festival Executive Director Calixto Chinchilla. "Filmmakers are doing stronger stories. It's really about new talent; we have a lot of first-time filmmakers, and the stories are amazing."

Chinchilla points, for example, to "The Startup," in which some friends from Queens decide to move to Manhattan and eventually turn their Harlem brownstone into a youth hostel.

Describing the film as "like 'Swingers,'" Chinchilla notes how it shows that local Latino filmmakers "are raising the money, doing it by any means, and doing it well."

And it's not just New Yorkers who are an emerging film force. This year, the festival (nylatinoofilm.com) is showcasing movies from Puerto Rico, which is experiencing a cinematic rebirth.

"Puerto Rico has recently begun to offer tax incentives to anyone who shoots on the island," Chinchilla says, "so you are getting stronger filmmakers who are getting the kind of support they've never had before. Puerto Rico is really committed to its cinema now."

But wait. There's more. Much, much more among the 80 films, including full-length features, shorts and documentaries.

Premieres include "El Cantante," the highly anticipated Jennifer López-Marc Anthony bio of salsa singer Héctor Lavoe; "El Muerto," a film Chinchilla describes as "like 'The Crow,'" a comic book adaptation done well, and "Trade," a film about international sex traffickers and featuring Kevin Kline.

"Trade," says Chinchilla, is "real, raw, sad and was written by [José Rivera], the guy who wrote 'The Motorcycle Diaries.' It's not for everybody, but it's a powerful piece and doesn't pull any punches."

Chinchilla, who also co-founded the festival, is particularly proud of this year's edition because of the way it has expanded to include more than just theatrical presentations.

"This year is more event-driven," he says. "There are more activities. There are outdoor screenings. It's become more than just a sit-down-in-a-theater thing. This was not in the original plan, but we've grown with the community."

So those who want to watch the Sharks and the Jets go at it again can see "West Side Story" at a free outdoor screening at Riverbank State Park on Saturday the 28th.

Panel discussions range from subjects dealing with women in film to how to pitch a film project to top producers and directors.

A free family day sponsored by the Cartoon Network features games and outdoor 'toon screenings. Dominican night will highlight the premiere of "Yuniol," a film from the island nation about two young men from wildly different social classes who interact in interesting ways.

And there are numerous documentaries, shorts, a "Rewind" section with screenings of "Carlito's Way" and "Crossover Dreams," plus feature films from Mexico, Chile, Cuba

("El Benny," about orchestra leader Beny Moré, Spain and Brazil.

Add it all up and it comes to this, Chin-chilla says: "This is the most exciting roster we've ever had. It's diverse, focused, a solid slate of films."

COMMENDING CORPORAL JACOB L. KAREUS, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize and commend the courageous effort of Marine Corporal Jacob L. Kareus by entering into the RECORD the following letter:

MAY 29, 2007.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BOOZMAN: I am writing to inform you of the performance of one of your constituents, Corporal Jacob L. Kareus, United States Marine Corps, son of John L. and Katherine D. Kareus of 7001 Ellsworth, Fort Smith, AR 72903.

Cpl Kareus recently returned from a seven-month deployment to Haditha, Iraq, with Company E of the Second Battalion, Third Marine Regiment. Upon our arrival, Haditha, a city of approximately 40,000 people on the Euphrates River in the restive Al Anbar Province, had a reputation as one of the most dangerous places in Iraq. Sunni insurgents frequently attacked Cpl Kareus' patrol with small arms fire, sniper fire, grenades and rocket and rifle vehicles. The insurgency maintained a close handle on the populace by an effective murder and intimidation campaign. Through their threatening and pressure of public officials and government workers, insurgents even controlled public works such as water and electricity. Only 15 Iraqi Police remained brave enough to work from the Marine forward operating base, while the recruitment of new policemen was nonexistent. Cpl Kareus and the rest of the Marines in Haditha were the tip of the spear in the Iraq counterinsurgency.

Through the heroic actions of your constituent, Cpl Kareus, the city of Haditha saw unprecedented progress. By his deployment's end, Haditha's police force numbered over 200 policemen and officers—many recruited from the people of Haditha—and they conducted operations independent of the Marines. Attacks on Iraqi Police and Marine patrols decreased from an average of 5–10 per day to a handful per month. Intelligence reports on insurgent activity flowed in regularly from the people. The populace, previously terrified to be associated with the Coalition, eagerly welcomed Marines and policemen into their homes for tea and conversation. The marketplace, or souk, bustled again, children played in the streets, and even teenage girls—previously prohibited by the insurgents from going to school—walked the streets five days per week in their school uniforms.

As his commander, I wanted to ensure you were aware of the hero from your great state of Arkansas. Cpl Kareus's selfless actions in Haditha honored his nation, his state, and his family. In an age where our ideals of courage and commitment and our resolve have waned, your constituent Cpl Kareus exemplifies the principles of self-sacrifice and dedication to a cause greater than himself.

Sincerely,

CAPTAIN M.W. TRACY,
Company Commander, Company E.

I wish to thank Captain Tracy for taking the time to write to me of the heroic service of

Corporal Jacob Kareus and the Marines of Echo Company. I applaud Corporal Kareus's service to America, as well as to the people of Haditha.

The motto for the 3rd Marines is Fortes Fortuna Juvat, which translates to Fortune Favors the Strong. It is our good fortune that we have the strength of character of men and women like Corporal Jacob Kareus serving to protect the freedom of all Americans.

IN HONOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR DISABLED SAILING: DISABLED SAILING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, 2007

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Association For Disabled Sailing World Championship scheduled to be hosted by the Rochester Yacht Club in Irondequoit, New York. The IFDS World Championship will consist of 170 competitors, including paralympic medalists and past world champions from twenty-eight different countries. These world class athletes will participate in a regatta on the waters of Lake Ontario.

A U.S.A. hosted, sanctioned World Championship, the IFDS World Championship will serve as a country qualifier for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. It will also contribute locally by providing the net proceeds of the event to the Rochester Rehabilitation Center's Sportsnet Program, a collaboration of different clubs and organizations supporting the participation and inclusion of disabled individuals in a variety of sports.

The IFDS World Championship is an inspirational demonstration of strength and perseverance. Participation in this regatta will bring about further inclusion of the disabled in sports and encourage new generations of athletes to work hard in order to achieve what was once deemed impossible.

On behalf of the citizens of the 25th Congressional District of New York, I congratulate the organizers of the IFDS Disabled Sailing World Championship and the world class athletes involved. Best wishes for a successful competition.

IN HONOR OF JACKSON COUNTY'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, let it be known, it is my special privilege to congratulate Jackson County on its 175th anniversary. Jackson County was named after President Andrew Jackson and was formed on August 1, 1832. Growth in Jackson County took off, and the world's largest walled prison was built in 1838, followed by the Michigan Central Railroad in 1841 that sparked growth and led to the discovery and production of coal mining.

The diverse economy of Jackson County has grown the last 175 years to include: man-

ufacturing, industry, medical and educational institutions, small business, and agriculture.

Some of the most beautiful scenery in the Midwest is in Jackson County. Residents and visitors recognize it for its many golf courses, hundreds of lakes, festivals, Michigan International Speedway, and acres of city and county parks.

Jackson County families are at the core of the community, supporting strong schools, family values and superior educational opportunities for everyone. Hundreds of churches and synagogues attest to the moral fabric that makes up Jackson County.

The citizens of Jackson County are its greatest resource. They continue to work together to provide a pleasant place to work, live, play and raise a family.

In special tribute, therefore, this document is signed and dedicated to honor Jackson County on its 175th anniversary. May the members of the Jackson County Community continue to benefit from the many wonderful attributes the county offers and seek to individually contribute to its growth and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOSE LOZANO

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Jose Lozano for being honored with the American Public Gas Association Personal Achievement Award.

Mr. Lozano started working for Okaloosa Gas District in May of 1972 as a system engineer. He was later promoted to operations manager, then vice president of corporate services and subsequently senior vice president. Then in 2003, after dedicating over 30 years of service, he advanced to the top management position, chief executive officer for Okaloosa Gas District.

Over the years Lozano has seen remarkable growth of Okaloosa Gas District. When he first came to work, the District had around 10,000 customers. Today the District has well over 37,000 customers.

He has served on numerous committees and boards in regional, State and national associations such as American Gas Association, Southern Gas Association, Florida Natural Gas Association, and American Public Gas Association, APGA.

From the start, Jose was an active participant in the APGA serving on committees such as Government Relations, Operations and Safety, Regulatory, and the Transmission Integrity Task Force. He has been a valuable partner in enhancing the prestige of the APGA in both the region and the Nation, and has made substantial contributions towards the attainment of APGA goals. As the APGA has grown so has Jose's involvement with the organization. He currently serves on the board of directors for APGA and as the second vice-chairman of the APGA Research Foundation board of directors.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am proud to recognize Jose Lozano for his exemplary career with the Okaloosa Gas District and wish him continued success.